

Eating the dust from a herd of cattle, the cowboys for a day mosey along.

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From courtrooms to cowboys, local barristers take to the trail

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

Sunbeams from an early morning sun filtered through aspens on the ridge in Joes Valley.

The cattle bellowed as cowboys drove them through the valley toward the dirt road that leads from the valley to Castledale.

Among the cowboys were 8th Circuit Court Judge Lynn Davis and Utah District 62 legislator Jeril Wilson, both Utah County residents.

They were helping their friend Scott Johansen drive his herd from summer range last week.

Sitting atop Betsie, one of Johansen's horses, Judge Davis pointed at Wilson and smiled.

"The reason I bring him along is so we can have some horse sense in the legislature."

Wilson, on Candy, appeared to be the old hand on horseback demonstrating some experience as he quickly guided strays back into the main herd.

"I've always liked to ride and have a couple of horses of my own," Wilson said.

The day began after waking up in Johansen's cabin and a big

cowboy breakfast cooked by Johansen's mother.

They had stayed up late the night before telling stories of humorous experiences in the legal profession. Johansen is the Sevier County Attorney along with ranching.

But the task at hand was to round up about 200 cows in the valley.

After a few hours, the trio was met by other riders who would take over and drive the herd to Castledale.

Johansen, Wilson and the Judge rode off into the mountains searching for strays.

They rode to the top of the east ridge but didn't find any cows.

On the ridge they surveyed the changing leaves of red and gold.

"It's beautiful isn't it," Wilson said.

Johansen said cowboy was his first love and all he really wants to do.

He says he went to law school so he can help support the family ranch.

"You can't make a decent living ranching in Utah, but I love

it. If I had a million dollars, I would stop everything else and just do this."

Reaching Joes Valley again, the group moved another herd of cattle from one field into another and rode back to the Johansen's cabin in Upper Joes Valley. Johansen's father, Eugene was barbecuing steaks on the porch.

Before dinner, they played horseshoes and plinked away at a target with the Judge's .22 caliber revolver.

"It's the highlight of my year when I come out here to Scott's ranch," Wilson said over dinner.

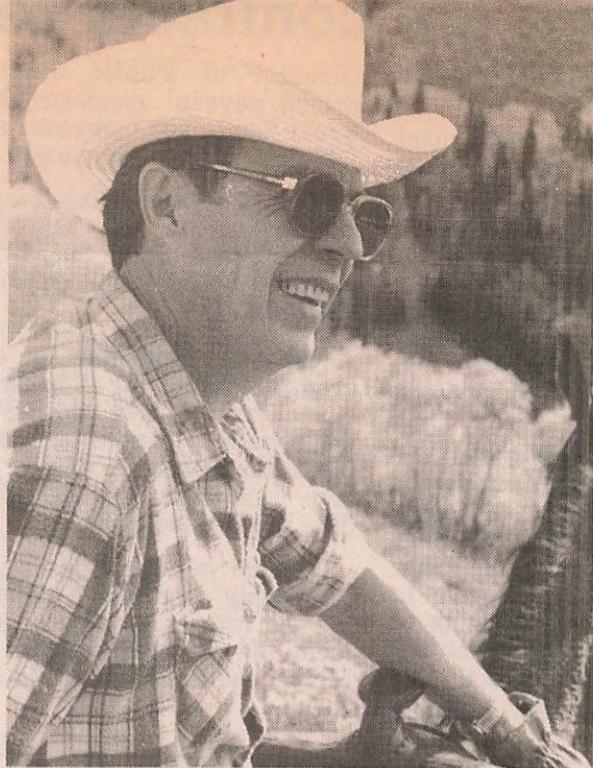
He comes out a couple times each year to help and to enjoy getting away from the stresses of civilization, he says.

"It's a paradise out here. It relieves a lot of the stress I face," said Judge Davis.

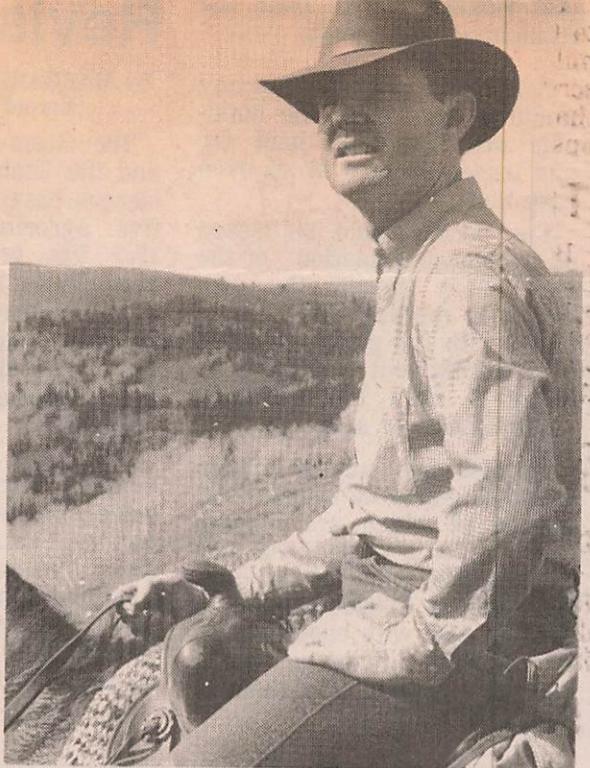
After dinner, goodbys were said and Wilson and the judge drove back to Utah County.

Johansen stayed. Saturday was going to be a big day.

"We have to dehorn young steers born in the spring. They missed spring dehorning," he said.



Jeril Wilson



Judge Lynn Davis



Headed for home, Davis loses his hat as he and Wilson let out the rein a little bit.